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THE VOICE

DORDT COLLEGE

WINTER 2011

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“

“I think it is neat how a couple of tin cans have allowed them to dabble with a technology that is at the forefront of addressing our energy future.”

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Van Den Bosch gives up the reigns in volleyball



First-year engineers tested their biomass cookstoves during the last week of classes in December. Some students made adaptations as they tested their designs, and a few roasted marshmallows as part of their testing—and ate them of course.

Heating Up

First-year engineers get hot project

Sally Jongsma

Dr. Kevin Timmer's first-year engineers are taking on a hot design assignment: creating an improved TLUD biomass cook stove.

"It's a great project," says Timmer, "because there is a great deal of information out there about these stoves, and they cost next to nothing to make." A TLUD (Top Lit UpDraft) biomass stove can be made out of something as simple as a large tin can. Holes are placed near the bottom and more holes are made near the top. When biomass—wood chips, dry grass, or crop residues—is placed in the can and lit, the bottom holes provide only enough air to keep it smoldering. As the smokey gases rise, they ignite when mixed with



The charcoal that remains in the stove after the biomass is burned can be used to enrich the soil.

the extra air supplied by the upper holes, creating a flame that can be used for cooking—with little smoke or harmful gas residue going into the air.

"The stove is really a small gasifier," says Timmer.

Gasification technology is one of the leading areas of research that is focusing on using biomass as a sustainable replacement for fuels and plastics. "I think it is neat how a couple tin cans have allowed them to dabble with a technology that is at the forefront of addressing our energy future."

Timmer has had lifelong passions for renewable energy technologies and healthy ecosystems. He has been able to unite those interests since working on a doctorate in biomass gasification.

"I am intrigued by the prospect of maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, like tall grass prairies, while simultaneously harvesting a sustainable energy resource,"

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Two seniors design biomass stove for use in Zambia

Sally Jongsma

First-year students aren't the only ones on campus who are designing biomass cook stoves. Two seniors are working with agriculture professor Dr.

Ron Vos in collaboration with Northrise University in Zambia to design a stove using the abundant grasses that grow there rather than



Ron Vos

cutting rapidly depleting trees. Deforestation results in environmental effects such as flooding, soil erosion, and droughts. The effort is the senior design project for Ian Kuipers and Stephanie Argo, whose goal is to design a product that could be manufactured and used in Zambia.

During his time at Northrise University, Vos has observed that using grasses, which are burned anyway, could give people a sustainable source for cooking fuel. The TLUD stove would help burn off the polluting smoke and chemicals released and create charcoal that could be made into briquettes that could be used for additional cooking or heating.

"We are excited about and challenged by this project," says Argo. "It's exciting to be able to work with something that could potentially have a great positive impact on the economic, health, environmental, and social aspects of a group of people. However, it is challenging because we are trying to design something for a culture that we are not familiar with."

Argo and Kuipers met with the president of Northrise and his wife when they were on campus in November for more input into their project. They understand that what they do this year will not be the grand solution to a great problem, but they hope that it might spark interest in Zambia and be developed further by local people who might use the biomass stove.

Preparing for Serving



Vander Zee's podium graces the Campus Center

Dr. Delmar Vander Zee retired two years ago from teaching biology, but he frequently works at the college—although usually not in the science building anymore. He often can be found in the pottery studio, completing his next assignment for the course he's been taking. This spring he was working on something else for the college—an oak podium for the Campus Center.

Vander Zee was asked to design and build a lectern to use in the large atrium area in the Campus Center after he participated last year in a gallery show of fine woodworking by three Dordt College alumni. One of the pieces on display was a podium Vander Zee had made for his congregation, Covenant Christian Reformed Church in Sioux Center. It prompted a commission to build a similar piece for use in the De Jager Activity Center in the Campus Center.

Vander Zee estimates that he spent between sixty and seventy hours on the piece, adapting the design to fit the more geometric lines and squares of the Campus Center. He retained the "floating" front and side panels, a design element he'd developed for the Covenant piece to try to match the open legs of Covenant's pulpit furniture and at the same time provide some protection for those who stand behind the lectern.

"I like to design and bring things to three-dimensional life," says Vander Zee. He carefully draws out his plans. "It helps you think through problem areas before you start cutting," he says.

Vander Zee has made dozens of wood pieces, from delicate miniature pianos to a bedroom set and, most recently, custom bunk beds for two happy granddaughters.

An old maxim goes something like this: When your neighbor is unemployed, it's a recession but when you're unemployed, it's a depression.

In today's world, there's nothing funny about that statement. Too many of us have found ourselves "unemployed" and all of us have relatives, friends, and neighbors who are in that situation. And, economists tell us it will be a decade or more before employment returns to anything close to its previous levels.

So what steps should we in the Christian community encourage Christian youth to take to ensure that they will have a life time of opportunities to serve God's kingdom, no matter what the economic future may hold.

To answer that question, it may be helpful to consult the United States government's Bureau of Labor Statistics summary of employment (and unemployment) by educational attainment. In September of 2010, among people over 25 years of age, those with less than a high school diploma had an unemployment rate of 15.4 percent. For those who graduated from high school, but didn't go to college,



Carl E. Zylstra

that rate dropped to 10 percent.

For those who went to college and earned an associate (two-year) degree, the rate improved by a tenth and dropped to 9.1 percent. But for those who graduated with a bachelor's degree or higher, the unemployment rate was 4.4 percent—less than half that of the two-year degree graduates.

Does that mean that every college graduate has a job that they want? No. But it does make clear that, statistically speaking, a college diploma is the best

way to make sure you can find a meaningful and remunerative way to serve society and God's kingdom throughout your life.

Does that mean everyone should go to college? No again. Even among those who haven't finished college 39.5 percent of the population over age 25 is currently employed. That's a lot of people doing a lot of meaningful work and service who have never set foot on a college campus.

Still, the ability to get a high paying job is not the first question a child of God needs to ask.

I suggest that we should ask Christian youth to ask first of all, "How can you be

sufficiently prepared and flexible so that you can contribute to human society and the coming of Christ's kingdom throughout your lifetime, whether the economy happens to be in boom or bust?"

Individual people will give individualized answers. You know your child, grandchild, nephew, or niece better than I do. But, statistically speaking, the answer that the Great Recession has provided us is plainer than ever before. If Christian youth want to develop their character, their insights, and their gifts in ways that will prepare them to serve the kingdom of God, government statistics give an obvious answer, "Go to college and complete your education."

As any regular reader of this page knows, from my point of view an even better answer would be, "Go to the four-year college that will develop your own unique set of gifts in keeping with your biblical commitments. By doing so you'll prepare yourself to glorify and honor the Creator and Lord of all in your studies in college and in your lifetime of service that follows."

Unemployment is never a joking matter, certainly not in today's environment. Yet the crisis of the moment should not divert us from the real issue of what it takes to find the opportunities for service that God has prepared for each one of us—regardless of the economic situation.

Biomass stoves could fill a need for many

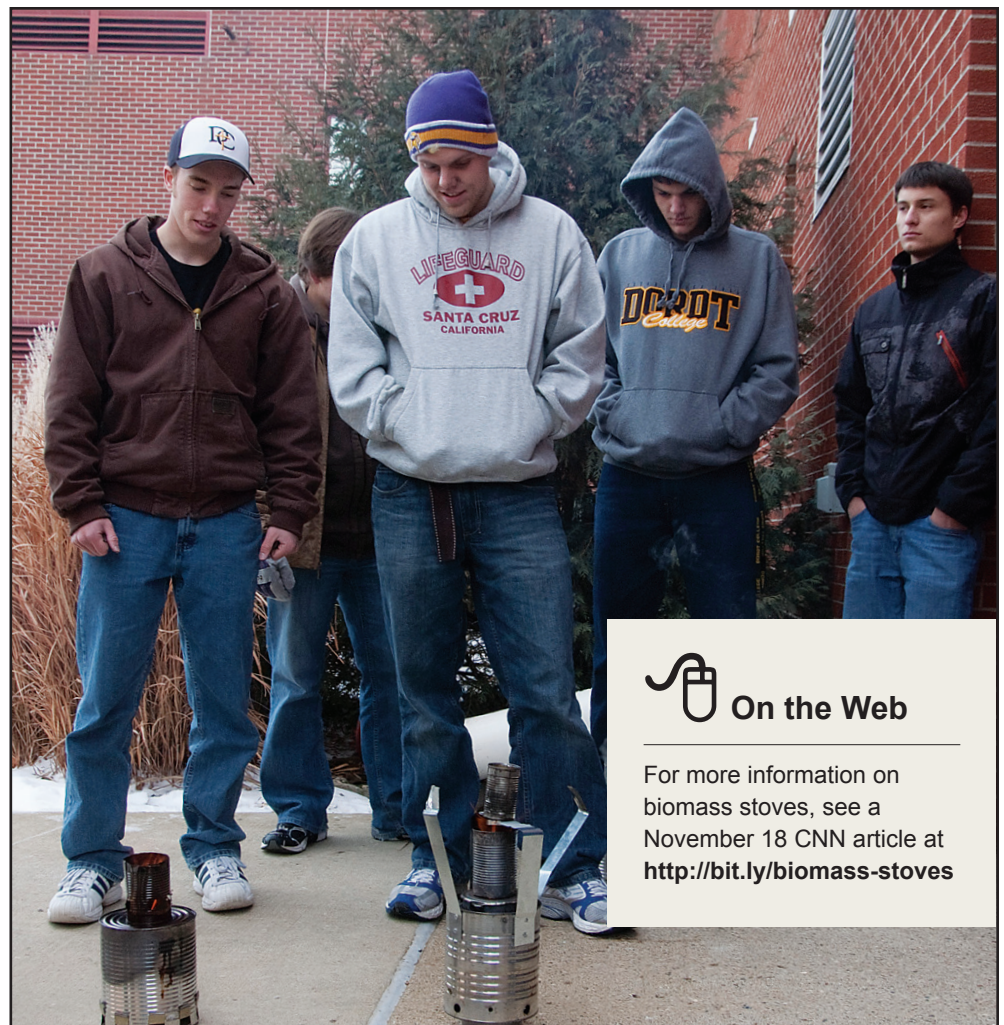
(continued from page 1)

Timmer says.

Creating an improved biomass stove is more than an academic exercise. Biomass cook stoves are a hot topic in development circles today. It is estimated that as much as half of the world's population cooks with biomass each day. Even Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has been advocating them—and with good reason. People in developing countries spend a significant portion of their income on fuel for cooking—or they deplete local forests. In addition, they suffer from lung and eye ailments caused by the smoke from traditional methods of open flame cooking. Inexpensive, well-designed biomass cook stoves save people money, use fewer scarce resources, and improve health conditions for those who use them.

It's also a good project to help students understand the opportunities they have to be God's hands in his world, believes Timmer. Tin cans are often available in refugee camps, and many communities in developing countries have access to blacksmithing skills.

The students start by researching TLUD stoves and the limitations of current designs. They then choose some aspect of the stove that they would like to improve. Timmer has



The biomass stove project was both successful and enjoyable, says Professor Kevin Timmer. "Regardless of what design they tried, the stoves of all student teams worked when tested."

them describe, from a Christian perspective, how this project could serve people and the creation by answering basic questions such as who the stove would be for, how it could affect the user, and what impact it will have on the non-human creation. After students decide on the improvements they'll make, they describe how the device will be constructed and used, and then they

generate a solid model of the stove on the computer before they build it.

"Students were excited about being able to design and build something low tech but yet on the cutting edge of technology," says Timmer. The fact that it could fill a desperate worldwide need likely helped.

"And playing with fire is universally appealing," adds Timmer with a smile.



On the Web

For more information on biomass stoves, see a November 18 CNN article at <http://bit.ly/biomass-stoves>



Design students develop logos

Ellen De Young

When given an opportunity to design a project for an actual client, graphic design students are always highly motivated,” explains Professor David Versluis. Students in his advanced class received such an opportunity in early 2010.

Kevin Wassenaar ('94), the development director at Central Minnesota Christian Schools (CMCS), contacted Versluis to see if his students would be interested in updating CMCS's logo for the school's centennial celebration. They were hoping to use their existing shield symbol but to freshen it up and “make it applicable to celebrating 100 years of God's faithfulness to CMCS,” explains Wassenaar.

Wassenaar had worked with Versluis and one of his classes a few years ago to develop CMCS's website, and both parties “benefited from that experience,” recalls Wassenaar. “When this need for an updated logo came up, I right away thought about Dordt and another partnership.”

As he has done with other client projects, Versluis assigned the project to his graphic design class and also offered it to some senior students who were members the American Institute of Graphic Arts. The students created concept sketches, which eventually led to fifteen completed designs. The student proposals were sent to Wassenaar and the Centennial Celebration Committee for review. “We were able to look them over,” explains Wassenaar, “and eventually narrow it down to a couple of designs that we wanted to see tweaked a bit.”

Versluis explains that the final logo was the result of a team effort, the original design was built on the work and concept of senior Paul Hanaoka. Once the design was selected, Wassenaar communicated with Hanaoka directly about slight revisions and adjustments.

“We are extremely pleased with the final product!” says Wassenaar. He is also pleased with the whole design process, noting, “The students were very professional in their handling of the project, and especially in communicating with us and helping us get what we wanted.”



Engineering Professor Justin Vander Werff spends his summers in Ames and San Diego trying to help make structures safer for people during earthquakes.

Saving lives during earthquakes

Sally Jongsma

Iowa might seem like an unusual place to do earthquake research, but for Dordt College Engineering Professor Justin Vander Werff, it's not about place but about finding ways to save lives in earthquakes. He is part of a team of researchers at Iowa State University that is designing structures that withstand earthquakes in such a way that preserving human lives is the primary concern.

Iowa State University, where Vander Werff earned his master's degree and is now working on his Ph.D., has one of the top-ranked civil and structural engineering programs in the country. Its faculty includes earthquake design experts with whom Vander Werff works.

“Actually, engineers in all states are now required to account for earthquake potential in their designs,” Vander Werff says, but he admits with a smile that the likelihood of a significant quake in Iowa is unlikely. That doesn't stop Iowa State researchers from making a significant contribution to structural designs for earthquake-prone areas like California.

Vander Werff's involvement began during his senior year at Dordt when faculty members from ISU paid a recruiting visit to the Dordt College engineering department. The chair of the civil and structural engineering department at the time was involved in seismic research and offered Vander Werff an assistantship. During the three years of his master's program, Vander Werff worked on seismic research, first with the retiring chair and then with his new advisor, Sri Sritharan. Sritharan brought even more research grants and projects to Iowa State.

“Seismic behavior of structures is one

area of creation where we have a lot of work to do,” Vander Werff says. He cites the earthquakes in Haiti and Chile as examples of the reason why. Chile's more powerful earthquake killed a fraction of the number of people killed in Haiti. In Chile structures were built to withstand earthquakes and preserve life; in Haiti they were not. He hopes to help develop construction methods that can be implemented efficiently and economically so that poorer areas and countries can also benefit.



Vander Werff

“I came into Dordt's engineering program liking math and science, but as I studied here I came to appreciate more and more the real place of engineering—to use the gifts of creation to glorify God and serve our neighbors,” Vander Werff says. He credits his professors, especially former professor Dr. Charles Adams, with inspiring and instilling in him that understanding and commitment.

Following the completion of his master's degree, Vander Werff went to work in industry but was recruited to teach at Dordt College following Adams' serious accident in 2008. After he accepted a regular faculty appointment, he resumed more regular contact with Dr. Sritharan and is now working as his Ph.D. student. The Iowa State researchers work collaboratively with the University of California at San Diego and the California Department of Transportation.

Vander Werff spends his summers in Ames, Iowa, with occasional time at the University of California at San Diego to do testing. This summer they tested a partial bridge in the lab at UCSD. Thanks to a reduced teaching load this year to do Ph.D. work, Vander Werff continues to analyze test data he and his team collected during the summer.

The data Vander Werff is analyzing came from testing how new and retrofit

connections behave under stress from earthquake loads. Today many bridges are constructed with precast, prestressed concrete rather than steel girders. As a result, the connections between the precast concrete members are vitally important to the overall behavior of the structure.

“We can't design and construct bridges that will withstand any earthquake,” says Vander Werff. “Cost would be prohibitive.” So researchers focus on designing bridges that will withstand smaller quakes without damage and allow for controlled damage during large earthquakes. This means that the bridges might need replacing but they won't collapse, taking people with them.

“The difference is in how much energy the design allows to be dissipated,” says Vander Werff. The more energy that can be dissipated throughout the structure in a controlled fashion, the less likelihood there is that it will break at one point and collapse.

As part of his Ph.D. requirements, Vander Werff will spend the next two summers and next academic year developing and testing new and retrofit connections that are simple and inexpensive that they hope will hold up well in earthquakes.

“I'm not just in it for the degree,” he says. “These things need to be better understood.”

Whether he will be able to continue his research after he receives his degree will depend on how the Lord leads and time permits, he says. He notes that the NSF encourages large universities to collaborate with smaller institutions and Dordt's relationship with ISU continues to grow, so opportunities may be there, although teaching remains the central focus of faculty in the Dordt engineering department.

“Whenever I tell any of my peers from other institutions that I teach three or four courses at once, they laugh,” he says. Meantime, he'll work as hard as he can to find design solutions that show love and respect for his neighbor's wellbeing.

Two students honored with FFA Degree

Ellen De Young

Dordt College students Rachel Daw from Farmington, Iowa, and Hannah Clark from Pioneer, Ohio, both received the American FFA Degree at the 83rd National FFA Convention in Indianapolis on Saturday, October 23, 2010. The FFA Degree is the highest honor awarded by the National FFA organization and recognizes leadership ability and outstanding achievement in agricultural business, production, processing, and service programs.



Rachel Daw



Hannah Clark

Fewer than one out of 150 FFA members advance through their local chapter and state FFA degree programs to earn this national degree.

"This is an award that goes to the cream of the crop," said Mike Schouten of the Dordt College agriculture department. Both Daw and Clark received a gold American FFA key and a framed certificate to commemorate the achievement.

The National FFA Organization, formerly known as Future Farmers of America, is a growing national youth organization of 523,309 student members from 7,487 local FFA chapters in all 50 states. All are preparing to be leaders in their careers in the science, business, and technology of agriculture.

Daw is a sophomore studying animal science, and Clark is a junior ag missions major.

Dordt College is one of just a handful of Christian colleges in North America to offer a four-year agriculture program, providing students with a choice of seven different program options including agri-business, plant science, and ag missions.

Nursing students teach Girl Scouts

Ellen De Young

What do you get when you mix aloe vera gel, glycerin, rubbing alcohol, and tea tree oil? Hand sanitizer! Twenty-two Sioux City Girl Scouts know the answer and even made a sample to take home, thanks to Dordt's senior nursing students.

The Girl Scouts organization in Sioux City contacted Dordt's nursing department last spring about organizing an event that would teach healthy living habits to girls ages six to eleven. Mary De Young, the nursing department's Clinical Outreach Coordinator, helped Dordt's senior nursing students organize the event.

On Saturday, November 13, the nursing students led the girl scouts in activities and sessions that explained the importance of exercise, hand washing, healthy teeth, healthy eating, and general safety. The girls had the opportunity to actively learn many of their new skills: they practiced brushing and flossing on a large model of a mouth, made their own healthy snacks, and learned the correct way to wash their hands.

"The girls loved the day," says De Young. "There were also several moms in attendance, and they were impressed and



Dordt College nursing students gave a Saturday to help share what they know with young girl scouts.

pleased with the organization and all the activities for the girls."

For the nursing students, most of the information they were teaching was pretty elementary to them, but the experience of teaching is where they found value.

"In nursing, it is sometimes hard to see

the impact your care or teaching might have on a person," explains senior Amanda Haan. "It was encouraging to see how excited the girls were about asking questions and actively participating. I believe we made a positive impact on these girls and set good examples for them."

ACTF honors three Dordt plays

The *Secret Garden*, the Dordt theater arts department's fall main stage show, was the department's third show this calendar year to be "held for consideration" for performance in this year's Region V Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF).

Earlier this year *Book of Days* and *Machinal* were "held" until the second week in December, when five to seven of the shows put on this year are selected out of the twenty-plus productions from the region that adjudicators decide might be worthy of showcasing at the festival.

Although none of the entire plays were, in the end, invited as showcase productions, one scene from *Machinal* will be performed at the regional festival in Ames in January. The play was directed by Danielle Roos for her senior theatre project. Nine students were also invited to compete in the Irene Ryan acting competition: Danielle Roos, Nick VanEe, Jenna Veenbaas, Mia Kornelis, Lee Radde, Grace Schmidt, Jason Kornelis, Matt Wiersma, and Maria Bouwkamp.

The Dordt College theater program has a history of being recognized by KCACTF. It has had at least one show held for consideration each of the past several years,



Lee Radde, Jason Kornelis, and Grace Schmidt (first, third, and fourth from left) were all invited to perform in the annual KCACTF Irene Ryan acting competition based on their performance in *Machinal*.

with two held last year and three this year.

The *Secret Garden* director, April Hubbard, is grateful for the latest honor.

"It validates for students the quality of their work," she says. She believes that it shows prospective students that although Dordt's program is small compared to many large university programs against which it competes, the level of quality is high.

"The fact that our program is recognized regularly is an indication of the fine students

we have and the good work they do," said Hubbard.

Hubbard especially enjoyed working with a cast of both college students and children in *The Secret Garden*.

"The children brought a sense of enthusiasm and fun to the production that was contagious," she said. "They added a sense of play that helped remind us that putting on a play is more than hard work, it's a joyful creation."

Mahaffy begins bilingual story hour

Ellen De Young

Although Sioux Center has historically been dominated by Dutch people and Dutch culture, the face of the town has changed within the last decade as the Hispanic and Latino population has grown. The evidence of the town's changing demographics can be seen in the opening of several Mexican restaurants, a grocery store, and a Spanish-speaking church. Now, thanks to Dordt sophomore Ruth Mahaffy, the change can also be seen in the Sioux Center Public Library's bilingual story hour.

"In the few years that I have been working at the library, I have seen an increase in the number of Spanish-speaking patrons," notes Mahaffy. A Spanish education major, Mahaffy translates library materials and speaks with the Spanish-speaking patrons. She explains, "I saw a need to increase Spanish language and bilingual materials as well as a need to promote literacy in both Spanish and English."

Mahaffy worked with the children's librarian, Judy Dirkse, to put together the bilingual story hour. She also promotes the story hour and helps lead it.

On Thursday evenings, English- and Spanish-speaking children gather to improve literacy skills, learn languages, and have fun. The hour includes the bilingual reading of several books, and it also provides many opportunities for the children to interact with each other through music, playing, making crafts, and even teaching each other Spanish and English words.

"This is not just a program for Spanish-speakers," explains Mahaffy. "We want both Spanish- and English-speakers to join together in this program and community."

The attendance has remained steady with up to twenty-five kids attending each night. Mahaffy notes that response to the story hour has been overwhelmingly positive, especially from Spanish-speaking families who are eager to learn English and are grateful to discover the library's various resources.

"We started this story hour to help meet a need and serve the community, but we have been blessed as well," remarks Mahaffy. "I have built some great relationships, improved my Spanish-speaking ability, developed some teaching skills and strategies, and had a wonderful time doing it all."



On Monday, December 6, twenty-seven teams of Covenant and West Hall residents signed up for a Gingerbread House Making Contest with each team having at least one resident from each building. Gingerbread houses were judged on four categories: most creative, most structurally sound, best story, and judges' choice. Resident Assistants planned the event with Learning Community Assistants serving as judges. Fun was had by all!

Schaap's newest book features Rehoboth

Sarah Vander Plaats

Why have so few attempts to bring the gospel to Native Americans been successful? This

is the question that Dr. James C. Schaap asked, and the answer helped shape his newest book, *Rehoboth, A Place for Us*.

"A few years ago, on the Rosebud reservation, I asked a priest from St. Francis Mission why so many Anglo attempts at bringing the gospel and becoming a force within Native America had such a pitiful track record. He said, 'We just haven't listened.' So I tried to listen."

Schaap, author and English professor at Dordt College, listened to the stories and histories told by twelve families who have influenced or have been affected by Rehoboth, a mission boarding school initially created for Native American students founded in 1903 by the Christian Reformed Church. This book is filled with stories and pictures of Rehoboth's rich, century-old history.

"Doing the book was an immense privilege because it brought me intimately into family histories and stories that I wouldn't have heard otherwise," said Schaap. "My great joy in doing these kinds of books is that I get to be the recipient of immensely powerful and rich stories."

The twelve families featured in the book

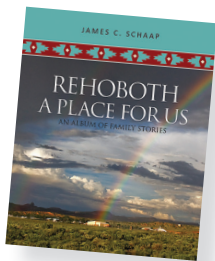
were invited to the gala release for the book at Rehoboth Christian Middle School on Nov. 15. In Schaap's blog he writes about the evening, "I may be gloating, and if I am, may I be forgiven: but Monday night, what went on in that school assembly room climbed to a hot-air-balloon level of blessing. What seemed to reign that night with all those folks in that place was nothing less than joy."

Recording the stories of history and community is nothing new to Schaap, who in 1985 wrote a book for the Christian Reformed Church called *CRC Family Album*. This, too, is a listening and retelling of more than 30 stories of people from the denomination from all corners of the continent. In his book *On the Trail of the Spirit*, Schaap shared stories of people touched by the *Back to God Hour* radio ministry. *Crossing Over* included several stories of refugee immigrants from Laos and Cambodia.

It was when he was working on his novel *Touche the Sky* that Schaap's interest in Native America began.

"My interest in Native America arose from our proximity to the Great Plains and the assessment that I knew nothing about the original inhabitants of this area, those folks from whom we get our name [Sioux Center] and other names," said Schaap.

Rehoboth, A Place for Us is published by Faith Alive Christian Resources and is available at the Dordt College Bookstore.



Campus Capsules

New staff welcomed at Dordt

Mark Eekhoff, Admissions counselor

Dustin Hamm, Learning Community Area Coordinator

Heather (Boer) Hoogendoorn, Administrative Assistant for Advancement

Brandon Huisman, Admissions counselor

T.J. Lagestee, Admissions counselor

Bailey Sarver, Admissions counselor

Sarah Vander Plaats, Public Relations assistant

Joanna Van Velzen, Scholarship coordinator and financial aid assistant



Eekhoff



Hamm



Hoogendoorn



Huisman



Lagestee



Sarver



Vander Plaats



Van Velzen



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Netherlands

Dordt College Alumni and Friends

Exploring Dutch culture and the history of the churches of the Reformation
Led by Leendert van Beek and James C. Schaap

May 17-28, 2011



Named Scholarship Recipients	
Continued from previous issue	
Janet André Bootsma Scholarship for Women Students in Business	Krista De Vries Sarah Skidmore
Janie M. Roos Memorial Women's Basketball Scholarship	Julia DeKoekkoek Jaimie Kok
Jeanie E. Zinkand Memorial International Student Scholarship	Nana Quaicoe
Jeffrey A. Alons Theater Arts Scholarship	Jeni Kanis
Jill Vander Zee Memorial Scholarship	Joshua Wynia
JJR Leadership Scholarship	Marijke Bishop Erin Wynia Laura Schrottenboer Geoffrey Stout
Joe J. Dahm Memorial Music Scholarship	Matthew De Jong Nathan Friend Janna Mulder Lucas Teeuwssen Anna Visser Nicholas Van Ee
Joe's Ready Mix, Inc. Scholarship	Bethany Bierma
John & Frances Bonnema Memorial Music Scholarship	Jonathan Posthuma
John & Frances Bonnema Memorial Business Scholarship	Michael Gorter Jorita Mulder James Rylaarsdam
John & Frances Bonnema Memorial Social Work Scholarship	Bethany Topping
John & Frances Bonnema Memorial Teacher Education Scholarship	Miranda De Bey Bethany Hulst Staci Magnussen
John & Reona Reinsma Organ Scholarship	Dale Matthias
John B. Hulst Teacher Education Scholarship	Marissa De Boer Caroline Koekkoek
John Bosma Memorial Scholarship	Stephanie Wiersma
Jonathan Ross Kooima Scholarship	Stephanie Argo
continued on page 7	

Integral, not integrated

Faculty members entering their fourth year at Dordt College are asked to write a concise paper discussing how a Reformed, biblical faith shapes and directs their work at Dordt College. Dr. Leah Zuidema’s paper, submitted this summer, explains what it means to her to teach out of a Christian perspective.

Leah Zuidema

One of the key aspects of my work today is my firm belief that faith and biblical perspective are integral to my teaching, to my scholarship and research, to my service on campus and farther afield, and to all I do in my faculty role. I choose the word *integral* carefully, in deliberate contrast with the word *integrated*, which was the term I favored when I first began teaching at Dordt. When I participated in the New Faculty Orientation program in 2007, Dr. Calvin Jongsma led our cohort in a discussion about the differences between the two terms after we read Wolterstorff’s (1993) “The Grace that Shaped My Life.” At the time, I listened carefully to the distinctions, but I felt that perhaps the argument was one of semantics rather than anything that would make a practical difference in my teaching. Three years later, I understand that Jongsma was right: The differences between *integral* faith and *integrated* faith are real, and—as contrasting examples from my teaching in 2007 and 2009 will show—they matter on a practical level.

When I applied for a position in the spring of 2007, I saw faith and learning as *integrated*. Gradually I began to notice a problem with this view. I was approaching faith as something that one could bring to teaching and learning, as if teaching and learning could exist in some kind of neutral territory apart from the human response to God. I knew, on a conscious level, that this wasn’t true. Yet as I planned and taught my courses that fall, I kept looking for significant moments in which I could infuse our technical (and presumably neutral) studies with texts and talk that were explicitly Reformed.

One afternoon in the English grammar course, I rambled on about the creational structure and direction of language, two key tenets from Wolters’ (2005) *Creation Regained* that are closely related to the parameters for curricular organization from Dordt’s Educational Framework. When I finished the lecture, I was dissatisfied. I felt as though I had treated faith and my Reformed perspective as topics to address on a one-time basis, perhaps like something to be checked off of a to-do list. In an attempt to remedy the situation, I tried adding a few more lectures about biblical perspectives on language at other points later in the course, but I was left with the same hollow feeling, as if I’d put the Christian frosting on a stack of cardboard curricular boxes and declared it a



Leah Zuidema

cake. It may have looked good on the surface, but it wouldn’t pass the taste test. When my evaluations for the course were returned to me the following semester, I saw that some of the students were also dissatisfied with my attempts to integrate faith and learning in the grammar course. Consider this excerpt from one student’s comments on the anonymous course evaluation forms:

Q: How has this course and your instructor’s efforts shaped or deepened your understanding of this perspective from a biblical perspective?

A: I’m a bit confused about how grammar relates to a biblical perspective, but I can repeat answers I’ve been told: Language is a gift from God, and we should therefore use it well.

The student’s remark about “repeat[ing] answers” accurately summarized the problem. In thinking of biblical perspective as something to be integrated into the course, I had not only adapted an oversimplified view of faith, but I had also enacted an overly simplistic view of teaching and learning, one in which I tried to transmit knowledge to students in lecture form, as if learning were merely a matter of moving information from my mind into theirs. As a result, it seemed that the best this student could do was to repeat my words on the subject. In trying to *integrate* biblical perspective into the course, I had failed to help this student to truly understand how a biblical perspective was *integral* to our studies of English grammar.

I changed my approach to teaching grammar. However, the change didn’t happen in the heroic way that so often seems to occur in tales of teacher transformation.

I was not the teacher who single-handedly identified a problem, developed an ingenious solution, and then stormed into action to save the day. Instead, the shift happened slowly, in connection with other changes I was making to my teaching and my understanding of my discipline.

It is fair to say that the changes in my teaching were in part due to common grace. That is, the transformation in my grammar pedagogy was greatly influenced by other scholars—scholars who are not necessarily or explicitly Christian, but who have done good work in the field of English studies. In the time since my first semester of teaching English grammar, I have done a great deal of study toward improving my knowledge of how to teach this particular subject area effectively. I have read numerous books and articles on how best to teach grammar, and in the process, my design for the grammar course has been radically changed. I still hold students accountable for learning the same rules, conventions, skills, and strategies as before. However, rather than focusing on concepts transmitted through lectures, the curriculum now centers around inquiry projects in which teams of students conduct in-depth study of one author’s English grammar over the course of the semester. In keeping with ideas from Benjamin’s *Engaging Grammar* (2007), the students are taught to “notice” (analyze and evaluate) how their authors craft language, “name” these grammatical choices and their rhetorical effects in technical terms, and “apply” their grammar knowledge through practice in their own writing.

This inquiry-based approach is aligned with some of the most current scholarship on grammar pedagogy. It has also transformed how my students and I explore biblical perspectives on language. Instead of intermittent lectures in which I “bring in” the topic of biblical perspective, my students and I are immersed together in wondering about authentic, “real world” grammatical choices and their rhetorical effects (Kolln, 2007). As a result, we have frequent opportunities to discuss writers’ motivations, their views of their audience, their creative use of language, and other topics that are both integral to the discipline and ripe for discussion about biblical perspectives—about obedient communication and views of personhood, biblical teaching about language diversity, and so on. Our disciplinary study is like a wellspring for discussions about how the English language demonstrates both creational structure and the dynamic unfolding of creation, about how our use of language, including the smallest grammatical choices, can be an opportunity for serviceable insight. In short, this approach to the English grammar course makes it plain that faith is *integral* to our learning.

Yes, there are still moments in English 336 in which I assign readings and plan ahead for extended discussions about biblical perspectives on our language; in fact, there are more of these moments each year. The difference is that instead of feeling tacked on, as they had previously, they are now obviously interconnected to the rest of our course of study.

Faculty news

Dr. Leah Zuidema is the new co-editor for a regular column in *English Journal*, which is the National Council of Teachers of English teaching journal for high school teachers. The column is called Professional Writing in the English Classroom, and it focuses on teaching writing that solves day-to-day problems, accomplishes work, and enables changes in organizations and communities.

Zuidema also gave a talk titled “First Drafts: Coauthoring Teaching Plans and Practices in an Induction Community” at the National Council of Teachers of English convention in Orlando in November. She presented research on ELA Lesson Roundtables, explaining connections between her work with this group and pedagogies commonly used in writing workshop courses.

Dean of Chapel **Aaron Baart**, Associate Provost for Co-Curricular Affairs **Bethany Schuttinga**, and Theology Professor **Thomas Wolthuis** gave a presentation titled “The challenges of worship on the Reformed campus” or “The Reformed ‘all of life is worship’ worldview meets Hillsong” at the November 6 annual meeting of ARIHE (Association of Reformed Institutions of Higher Education) at Redeemer University College.

Dr. Neal De Roo’s article “Re-constituting Phenomenology: Continuity in Levinas’ Accounts of Time and Ethics” appeared in *Dialogue: Canadian Philosophical Review* Vol. 49 no. 2 [2010], 223-243.

Dr. Benjamin Kornelis directed the Cornbelt Conference Honor Choir in Corwith, Iowa, on Thursday, November 4. Kornelis’s composition for treble voices, “Wynken, Blynken, and Nod,” which was the product of the 2008 ICDA/ICF Composition Commission, has been accepted for publication by Boosey & Hawkes.



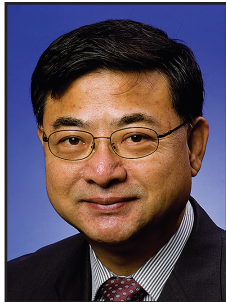
B. Kornelis

Dr. Pat Kornelis presented an academic paper, “A Case for Professional Development Schools: Transforming Teaching and Learning,” at the sixth annual Critical Issues in Education Conference November 8-9, 2010, in Chicago. The theme of the conference, sponsored by the Academy of Educational Studies at Missouri State University, was “How should we prepare new teachers?”

Dr. Charles Veenstra gave a presentation on communication principles

to the Minnikota Principals Club in Orange City on November 19, 2010. The interactive presentation, titled “Reversing the Chart,” discussed principles for communication with students, staff, board, and constituency.

Dr. Jay Shim is helping coordinate cooperative efforts between the seminaries of the Christian Reformed Church and a Presbyterian church in Korea.



Jay Shim

Dr. Clinton Lowin presented an academic paper, “An Assessment of the Missional Model of Graduate Theological Education: A Case Study,” at the North American Professors of Christian Education conference in Louisville, Kentucky, and at the Association of Youth Ministry Educators conference also held in Louisville.

Drs. Tim Van Soelen and **Curtis Taylor** gave presentations at the International Children’s Educator Conference in Seoul, Korea, in November. Van Soelen’s workshop was titled “Easy as Pi: Differentiated instruction in the math classroom.” Taylor’s was titled “Education for Eternity: Why Christian Education should not end after High School.”

Dr. James C. Schaap’s recent book *Honest to God*, a book of meditations on the Psalms, speaks to experiences readers find

in their own lives. The book was designed as a daily faith exercise and leaves space for readers to respond by journaling or drawing. *Honest to God* is published by Faith Alive Christian Resources and is available at the Dordt College Bookstore.

David Versluis was one of nine artists who participated in the Orange City Arts Council’s juried regional exhibition titled “The Artist’s Voice.” Versluis exhibited three prints from his Spirit Lake, Iowa: Fish Suite Series. One of the themes of the show was the tension between artistic expression and the need to please the public.

Dr. Kevin Timmer and the students in his Sustainable Energy Systems Design class performed a basic energy audit of American Reformed Church in Orange City as one of their class projects in October. Timmer and students Lucas Teeuwssen and Benjamin Gesink presented the results of that audit and discussed church energy audits, in general, at a Creation Care Workshop on November 6, at American Reformed Church. The workshop was sponsored by American Reformed Church and Covenant Christian Reformed Church of Sioux Center. All of the churches of Sioux County were invited.

Mark Volkers, along with his student Dale Vande Griend and alumni Josh Visser and Paul Ten Haken were honored with an international Davey Award for their work on a virtual online tour of India titled “My Passport to India” for Mission India.

Named Scholarship Recipients

Continued from page 6

Kasey & Karla Abbott Native American Scholarship
Nicholas Campbell

Len & Lee Rhoda Women’s Basketball Scholarship
Julia DeKoekkoek

Link Manufacturing Ltd. Engineering Scholarship
Paul Kleyer

Louis & Agnes Kamps Scholarship
Dallas Van Gelder

Louis & Johanna Zuiderhof Teacher Education Scholarship
Joshua Wynia

Louis & Tina Van Dyke History Scholarship
Alexandra Elgersma

Lyle & Marlene Bleeker Engineering Scholarship
Lucas Teeuwssen

Maatman Nursing Scholarship
Sonya Kuiper

Martin Seven Classics Scholarship
Adrianna Oudman

Martin Seven Communication Scholarship
Veronica Visser

Martin Seven English Scholarship
Kaitlyn Horvat
Ashlee Stallinga

Martin Seven HPER Scholarship
Kyle Van Wyk

Martin Seven Mathematics Scholarship
Daniel Mahaffy

Mike Vanden Bosch English Scholarship
Kaitlyn Horvat

Mildred M. Dupon Memorial Music Education Scholarship
Anna Kalfs

Minnie J. Dahm Organ Education Scholarship
Amanda Faber
Dale Matthias

Minnie Julia Dahm Premedical Scholarship
Joseph Lammers
Austin Spronk

Nick R. Van Til Scholarship
Steve Mangold

Nick Verbrugge International Student Scholarship
Roland Osaë-Oppong

continued on page 13

Save the dates:

June 20-24, 2011
Dordt Discovery Days
Registration opens March 19

www.dordt.edu/events/ddd



5th Anniversary

2011 Prairie Grass Film Challenge

Competition: Jan. 13–15
Screening/Awards: Feb. 18

Awards Ceremony is Feb. 18 on the campus of B.J. Haan.

Come to see all submitted films on campus from 6-7:45 p.m. Feb. 18, followed by the highlight of the evening, the Awards Ceremony, in the B.J. Haan Auditorium.

Judges will make their top picks and Best of Show for college teams and Best of Show for high school teams will be selected.

Sign up YOUR team online through Jan. 12.

dordt.edu/events/film_challenge

Faculty Openings

Application reviews will begin immediately. Qualified persons committed to a Reformed, Biblical perspective and educational philosophy are encouraged to send a letter of interest and curriculum vitae/resume to:

Dr. Erik Hoekstra, Provost
Facsimile: 712-722-6035, E-mail: provost@dordt.edu
www.dordt.edu/prospective_employees/faculty/



DORDT COLLEGE

Dordt College is seeking applications in the following areas:

August 2011:

Computer Science
Construction Management
Economics
Education
Engineering

History
Philosophy
Physics
Political Studies
Psychology (non-clinical)

August 2012 or earlier:

Organic Chemistry

Dordt College is an equal opportunity institution that strongly encourages the applications of women, minorities, and disabled persons.

International Collaboration

Student exchanges, faculty interactions, and institutional sharing create opportunities not only for Dordt College and its students, but for Christian students and universities in other parts of the world.

Much of international collaboration is about building relationships. That's not news to Dordt's new director of International Student and Off-campus Programs. Recently, Dr. Curtis Taylor has seen the fruit of visits to Korea, Indonesia, and Nicaragua grow as he gets to know his hosts and they get to know him.

Taylor wants all Dordt College students to be aware that they live in God's global world. His goal is both an institutional and a personal one. Two years ago at its annual retreat, the Dordt College board of trustees made a commitment to promoting student engagement with the global community. Their directive was strong enough to precipitate, partly due to a series of other personnel changes, a change in Taylor's title from Director of Institutional Planning to Director of International Student and Off-Campus Programs. On the personal side, Taylor is a natural choice for helping implement this goal. His family includes a child through international adoption, and they have welcomed numerous international exchange students into their home over the

years.

Taylor is responsible both for sending students out and bringing them in. He administers both student and faculty international study abroad programs, recruits gifted international students, promotes student participation in off-campus programs, and supervises the complicated list of ways students can fulfill Dordt's decade-old cross-cultural requirement.

Even before receiving his new title, Taylor had been working with Korean colleagues and contacts to build a partnership that will provide good educational experiences for both American and Korean students. In the past three years fifteen to twenty Korean four-year and exchange students have enrolled each year. New partnerships have also been established or set up with three



Curtis Taylor

Christian universities in Korea that are eager to work together to strengthen a Christian perspective in teaching. Several Dordt College faculty have given presentations at those schools, and one Dordt Korean graduate recently accepted a position at one of these universities.

Taylor is also cultivating relationships with Christians in Indonesia.

"I've never before had someone in tears as I spoke about Dordt's Core Program and the educational coordinates upon which it rests," says Taylor about a meeting with the board and teachers at one of the Penabur Christian schools in Indonesia. A woman wept in appreciative thanksgiving to learn about a holistic Christian approach to university-level education in the United States. The event followed earlier visits to Indonesia and the Sekolah Pelita Harapan schools, an association of

Christian schools from which Dordt student Jeremy Budi came to study both agriculture and church music at Dordt College.

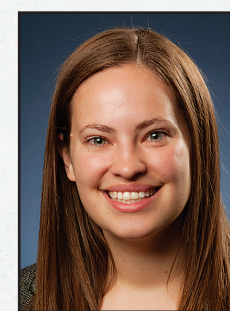
In a visit to Nicaragua this fall, Taylor and Linda Van Wyk, who works with Taylor and the international students on campus, spent time with people involved with the Nehemiah Center and Nicaragua Christian Academy. The Nehemiah Center describes itself as a community of service and learning that trains lay and pastoral leaders in an integral, biblical worldview and encourages local, national, and international collaboration to bring Christ-centered, transformational development in communities and nations. Several Dordt College graduates have taught at Nicaragua Christian Academy and its director is a graduate. Dordt business interns have also worked with these organizations.

Increasing international opportunities is a priority

As the number of international students on campus grows, so must non-classroom support. Thanks in part to the work being done by Curtis Taylor and Linda Van Wyk, who work with international students on campus and help coordinate off-campus programing, the numbers of students who want to study abroad is increasing. As Dordt encourages more students to participate in an off-campus cross cultural experience, the college may have to increase the number of openings in its own programs to keep these opportunities affordable for students who

wish to participate. Taylor hopes to increase the number of spaces in Dordt's SPICE (Study Program in Contemporary Europe), SPIN (Study Program in Nicaragua), and SPAN (Study Program at Northrise) by twenty-five percent in the near future. In addition, new arrangements at Handong Global University (Korea) and Harbin Institute of Technology (China) will allow students to study as exchange students, thus lowering their overall costs if students from those institutions choose to attend Dordt College.

Linda Van Wyk ('08) returned to campus this fall after living and teaching in Korea for two years. As the Coordinator for International Students and Off-Campus Programs she works closely with Curtis Taylor, offering friendship, support, and programs to international students.



Linda Van Wyk

"When you live in another culture, you learn more about yourself than you do about that culture—about who you are and how you've been shaped by your culture," she says. "I didn't really get that until I lived in Korea. That's when it dawned on me how American I am." Van Wyk appreciates her cultural heritage, but she believes she needed to understand how shaped she was by her culture before she could learn from other cultures.

For her, the awareness process began in her freshman year when she went on a PLIA service project to Camden, New Jersey, and saw the different cultures within the United States. It grew during a semester on the Middle East Studies Program in Egypt, and became impossible to ignore while living in Korea.

"It can be hard to sort through what is good and not good in another culture, but it's worth doing," she believes. "American culture generally puts a great deal of emphasis on the

individual and things. Many other cultures put more emphasis on community."

Van Wyk recalls an experience that affected her as a student. When a photographer came to campus to show poignant black and white photographs he'd taken in

Sudan, he made reference, in his remarks, to photos published in Newsweek's international edition that weren't published in the more entertainment-oriented U.S. edition.

Knowing more about herself and her culture in comparison to others has helped her live more intentionally, she says.

Van Wyk doesn't expect all students to be like her, but she does hope that they will go through a similar process of learning how they have been shaped by their cultural experiences. She's convinced that doing so often takes exposure to other ways of doing things.

"I have a lot of confidence in the ability of off-campus programs to stimulate that process," she says.



The advantage to studying abroad is that you gain a deeper understanding of yourself, a clearer understanding of your culture, and a broader understanding of God. We imagine ourselves to have particular qualities: patience, for example. However, the reality is that we have shaped our surroundings and schedules in such a way that we exclude (as much as we can) the likelihood that we will encounter situations that are likely to make us impatient. Thrust into a new culture, we are forced to deal with a barrage of system shocks that soon show us how patient we really are.

When we have lived in only one country, we look at the things that we and those around us both think and do as life. When we live in a different country, we see (immediately and over time) the differences in the way people in that country look at things; we see which values take precedence over others (such as group harmony over self-fulfillment). Eventually, we have a vantage point for seeing more clearly our own culture as a reflection of the things we value more highly. The shock for Christians is to see the extent that our culture supersedes the Bible in shaping how we think and act.

Our culture affects the way we perceive God. We see those aspects of God's character that resonate with things in our culture, and we often overlook aspects—even though they may be clearly spelled out in the Bible—that, for whatever reason, do not resonate with our culture. As we learn how people in another culture perceive differently the character, attributes, and workings of God, this broadens our perceptions and ultimately affects how we live.

Jay Lundelius, Director of the Council of Christian Colleges and Universities' BestSemester China Studies Program, in an e-newsletter to member colleges.



In Cambodia

Sarah Skidmore, a junior business major from San Diego, California, traveled to Cambodia, for a marketing internship this summer. Working with Kingdom Creations, a non-profit that provides vocational training to poor and exploited workers, Skidmore helped market their products to outlets in the United States so that workers, primarily women, can earn a fair wage and support themselves and their families.

My international internship showed me that my education at Dordt matters. I was able to analyze, evaluate, and participate in international marketing. I view my

internship in Phnom Penh as a time when God did His work through me. I had a lot of neat experiences, but at the end of the day my internship was about helping improve the Kingdom Creations brand in order to help more women help their families and earn a fair wage to support themselves against turmoil and trial.

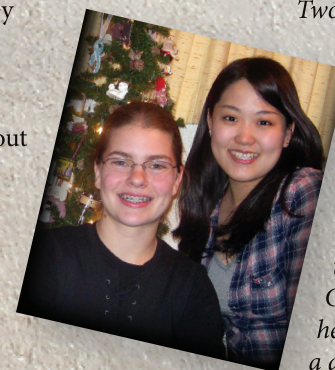
Living in a culture with widespread poverty and lacking the modern luxuries we take for granted will have a lasting impact. The level of wealth in Southeast Asia compared to America is overwhelmingly different. Most things are available but for an astronomical amount of money compared to average wages there. I spent my time adjusting to their living conditions, serving God, and loving the people.

In Sioux Center

Rachel Snodgrass is a sophomore nursing major from Harper, Iowa. Rachel enjoys getting to know people. During her first year on campus, she occasionally put little notes on the doors of her fellow hall residents. One day, an international student from Korea opened the door as she was about to post a note. So started a conversation that has since extended to friendships with many international students.

Having a foreign student program at Dordt has been a wonderful experience for me. Many of the international students have become my close friends. Getting to know them has helped me to be more aware of the feelings and thoughts of people around me. With a bit of a language barrier, you learn to pay more attention to the non-verbal signals that people

send when they communicate. International students have also rounded out my education by helping me learn about many different cultures and languages—things I would not have known much about otherwise. My experiences and relationships have helped me to better see the bond that Christians have no matter what culture they are from or what language they speak; we are all brothers and sisters in Christ, which helps to create a special bond. Without my Christian, international friends, there would definitely be a big void in my life.



In Nicaragua

Two years ago Matthew Vryhof participated in a semester-abroad program in Nicaragua, where he spent three months studying the country's language, culture, history, and people. His time there helped him grow as a Christian and shaped who he is today. It also confirmed a direction for his life. As a result of a service learning project he is committed to teaching children who do not have the same educational opportunities he had.

I have been on various mission/service trips, so adjusting to a new culture was not new to me. This time, by spending a longer time there, I was able to make more personal connections with people. Nicaragua is the second poorest country in the western hemisphere,

and we saw that their heads made them some of the happiest people I know. They trusted God to provide the rest. This really hit home for me and still does as I sit typing on my laptop, listening to music on my iPod Touch. If I did not have the things I have and was never sure where my next meal was coming from, would I still be happy? Would I still have faith and trust God to provide for me? These questions have been in the back of my mind and have had a profound effect on me and the



decisions I have made in my life since this trip.

My relationships with my host family were the icing on an already rich chocolate cake. Host families take you in, a stranger, and treat and love you as if you are their son or daughter. Whether or not you know Spanish, they find a way to communicate with you, to get to know you, and to help you learn Spanish. I learned just how kind-hearted and caring they are as individuals and as a people.

Demestri is changed by her time here

Ellen De Young

Ana Lucía Mora Demestri made her first 5000-mile journey from Paraguay to Sioux Center, Iowa, in the summer of 2008. That trip also marked a step in a different journey.

“The story of how I came to Dordt is really about a journey of faith,” explains Demestri.

From a young age, Demestri was fascinated by foreigners, especially English speakers. “When I was young, there were some missionaries in my school who were native English speakers, and I liked to talk to them to practice my English.”

Her love for English continued and, as she neared the end of high school, she began looking at colleges in English-speaking countries. During her college search, her mother, a teacher in Paraguay, was invited to sit in on master of education classes at Dordt in the summer of 2007.

“I heard about Dordt from my mom and thought, ‘Maybe I can go there.’ I saw that they emphasized the fact that everything is for God’s glory, and that’s exactly how I want to live my life.”

So Demestri started the application process, but soon found that she would not be able to come up with the money she needed to attend. She e-mailed Quentin Van Essen, Dordt’s director of admissions, and told him that she would not be able to come to Dordt after all.

“He answered back and said, ‘I really suggest that you come, and we’ll find a way,’” recalls Demestri. “He didn’t even know me, so that was really a confirmation to me and to my family that God wanted me to come. And now I have been able to pay for my first two years. God really



Ana Lucía Demestri is one of thirty-eight non-Canadian international students studying at Dordt College this year. They come from fifteen countries and four continents.

provided.”

Demestri became involved in campus activities almost immediately. Currently a junior, she leads a praise and worship team, a women’s small group, and participates in

intramurals and Dordt’s international club, Students Without Borders.

Much of Demestri’s involvement has stemmed from her interest in music. When she first came to Dordt, she intended to

major in music, and then she narrowed her focus to Music Education. After more thought, she didn’t feel right about that choice, either.

“I love music,” explains Demestri, “but I realized I don’t want to teach music. I still really felt like I needed to be in education.”

She then turned her focus to Spanish education. “I was talking to [Spanish] Professor [Socorro] Woodbury, and she said, ‘The best advice I received was to teach something that I am good at, and what else than my own language?’” That sentiment resonated with Demestri as she began to see the need for good Spanish teachers.

“Many students say that they had years of Spanish but didn’t really learn.” She hopes to teach in a way that helps students really understand and learn the language.

Demestri isn’t sure where her major will take her.

“I’m still praying and being open because I feel called to missions, too. But missions can be anywhere!” She hopes to start by teaching in the U.S. and to see where God leads her from there.

That trust has grown in large part from living in a new country. “This experience has very deeply shaped who I am,” notes Demestri, “and I have learned and am still learning to rely on God for all my needs.”

Although Demestri was very eager to learn about American culture when she first arrived, she finds it a struggle, at times, to be away from her family.

“I still miss my family and talk to them every week, but I’ve also learned that the community of believers is my family—my church, fellow students, even professors. That fellowship means so much more to me now.”

Bell is changed by his time in Zambia

Ellen De Young

Devin Bell, an agriculture missions major at Dordt College, took his agricultural studies beyond the fields of Iowa and across the Atlantic Ocean when he spent the fall semester studying at Northrise University in Zambia. In the fall of 2009, Northrise and Dordt signed a partnership agreement with the hopes that students and faculty from both universities could interact with and learn from each other. Agriculture professor Ronald Vos and theology professor Tom Wolhuis have both taught summer courses at Northrise, and Bell is further cementing that partnership by being the first Dordt student to study at the university.

“Northrise is a great school that has high visions for the future,” explains Bell. “The people here are great, and I am building so many good relationships.”

Northrise was founded in 2004 as a university deeply committed to providing Christ-centered education. It currently offers classes in business and theology, but it also hopes to start an agriculture program in the near future.

In 2008, Northrise’s leadership began to look for models for their agriculture program and happened upon Dordt College in a Google search. In June of 2008, Northrise’s president Dr. Moffatimba and other Northrise leaders visited Dordt and “liked what they saw,” says Professor Vos.

“They came back in November that year presenting a partnership proposal,” Vos explains. Because Northrise is a Christian academic institution, the relationship between the two colleges came naturally. After a series of visits to



A fellow student in Zambia described Devin Bell as “an immensely friendly and approachable guy who seems to be settling pretty fast, pretty well.”

Northrise, the partnership was made official in fall of 2009.

Vos has returned to Northrise two summers in a row to teach a Foundations of Agriculture course. “They have a farm, but no official agriculture program yet,” explains Vos. “I’m there to help build excitement for the program.”

This past summer, Vos took six Dordt College students with him to Northrise to participate in a two-and-a-half-week course titled Service and Learning in Southern Africa. The students spent some time in service opportunities, but the largest objective was to “build relationships with people and learn about and experience the local culture without dominating it,” says Vos.

The students stayed in the homes of Zambian families,

worked on the Northrise farm, and interacted with university students.

Hannah Clark, a junior agriculture missions major, explains, “Zambia is a developing country, so to see homeless people or street vendors living on the street was not uncommon.” The biggest difference that Clark noticed, however, was in the way the Zambian people approached their Christianity. “Zambia is declared a Christian nation and people there seem less afraid to express their faith. They were very open and almost immediately asked us our personal testimonies.”

Bell also notes that day-to-day life in Zambia is very different from the United States. He has had to learn how to wash clothes by hand and to boil water before drinking it.

Although Bell is the first student to spend an entire semester studying at Northrise, other students have expressed interest, and Professor Vos hopes that Dordt can send more students next fall. Northrise is also hoping to send several students to Dordt in the fall.

“This is very exciting for me, but it is also very good for Dordt College,” notes Vos. “The summer service and learning course is open to students from other colleges, and this partnership ties in well with Dordt’s plan to develop internationally.”

The partnership is also an invaluable opportunity for students, as Bell points out: “The experience I am having is amazing and life-changing. I would recommend Northrise to anyone who wants to attain a good education in a totally different environment and culture.”

Learn more at www.northriseuniversity.com.

Athletes earn end of season honors

Mike Byker

Sports Information Director

The fall sports season officially ended when the volleyball season concluded on November 20. Several Defenders participated in post-season action, with some claiming high honors at the NAIA national level.

Volleyball

Two Dordt College volleyball players earned spots on the Great Plains Athletic Conference post-season first team while another earned second team honors in balloting done by the coaches at the annual meeting on Monday, November 15. The Defenders placed two more on the honorable mention list.

Earning first team honors for the third straight year was Kendra Potgeter, a senior from Byron Center, Michigan.



K. Potgeter

Potgeter averaged 3.3 kills per set with a team high .356 kill efficiency this season, and she led the NAIA in blocks per set with a 1.63 average. Dorinda Hibma, a senior from Sioux Center, Iowa, earned first-team honors for the second year in a row after leading the Defenders in ace serves with 47 and digs with a 6.54 average. She ranked third in the country and had 1003 digs this season. Potgeter also claimed NAIA All-American second-team honors for the second time in her career, and Hibma was an honorable mention selection for the second straight season.



D. Hibma



D. Geels

Danae Geels, a sophomore from Sheldon, Iowa, took second team all-GPAC honors with her 2.55 kills per set average and .297 kill efficiency. Brittany Landegent (sophomore; Alvord, Iowa) and Lindsey Moerman (freshman; Sioux Center, Iowa) each claimed honorable mention honors. Landegent made the transition to rightside hitter this season and responded with 1.56 kills per set with just under one block per contest. Moerman averaged 1.57 kills per set in her first season and has averaged 1.12 blocks per set, ranking her ninth in the NAIA.

Dordt College finished the season tied for third in the league with a 12-4 record and were 32-8 overall after getting eliminated in the NAIA National Championship Opening Round on November 20.

Cross Country

Michelle Steiger, a junior from Lynden, Washington, earned All-



Todd Green became the first Dordt College football player to be named to a post-season GPAC honor team.

American status with a 21st place finish at the NAIA Cross Country National Championship in Vancouver, Washington, on Saturday, November 20. Steiger posted a time of 18:23 on the 5,000 meter course and improved her time by a minute over last year's time at the national meet.

Steiger was the first Great Plains Athletic Conference participant across the finish line and improved on her 48th place finish from last season. Two weeks before the NAIA Championships, Steiger claimed the Great Plains Athletic Conference individual title and, along with Merissa Harkema, a junior from Hudsonville, Michigan, earned all-GPAC honors.

Football

Todd Green, a junior from Edmond, Oklahoma, earned Great Plains Athletic Conference Second Team honors for the 2010 football season. Eight other Defenders earned all-conference honorable mention.

Green is the first ever Defender to be named to one of the post-season honor teams.

Green had 33 solo and 24 assisted stops this season with two quarterback sacks, an interception, and three fumble recoveries. The defensive end also had 5.5 tackles for loss in ten games played this season. Green is the first Dordt football player to be named to an honor team by the GPAC.

Earning honorable mention for the second time in their careers were Matt Postmus (junior; Kalamazoo, Michigan), Brice Kroeze (junior; Orange

City, Iowa) and Reuben Faber (senior; Escondido, California). Postmus claimed the honor after making 33 solo tackles and assisting on 34 with 6.5 tackles for loss with three quarterback sacks and one fumble recovery while playing linebacker. Kroeze started ten games at defensive tackle and had 14 solo and 14 assisted tackles with six tackles for loss and two quarterback sacks. Faber punted 50 times and had an average of 41.7 yards per punt and had a long of 70 yards.

Taking honorable mention for the first time this season were Jon Luetchens (sophomore; Murdock, Nebraska), Owen Reinalda (sophomore; Seven Valleys, Pennsylvania), Sam Du Mez (junior; Brookfield, Wisconsin), Seth Vande Voort (freshman; Urbandale, Iowa) and Kyle Scholten (freshman; Inwood, Iowa). Luetchens played defensive back for the Defenders and also returned kicks. He had 29 solo and 24 assisted tackles with a team-high three interceptions and returned five punts and seven kickoffs. Reinalda started all ten games for the Defenders and transitioned from offensive guard to center near the end of the season. Du Mez caught a team high 26 passes for 453 yards and had one touchdown reception. Vande Voort played in nine games as a freshman linebacker and had 25 solo and 29 assisted stops with four tackles for loss and 1.5 quarterback sacks. Scholten was used mainly as a blocking tight end for the Defenders this season and played in eight games.

Men's Soccer

Devin Williams (senior; Colorado Springs, Colorado), Tom Stepanek (junior; Hudsonville, Michigan) and Brian Verwolf (junior; Jenison, Michigan) claimed second-team all-Great Plains Athletic Conference honors for the 2010 season.

Williams earned the honor while playing midfield for the Defenders and had four goals and two assists for the Defenders. Stepanek, a defender, scored a goal and was credited with an assist, while Dordt went 8-9-2 overall and 5-5-2 this season. Verwolf played 1710 minutes in goal for the Defenders and allowed 28 goals while recording 107 saves and had a 1.47 goals allowed per-90 minutes played average.

Earning honorable mention were Joe Lammers (junior; Centennial, Colorado) and Scott Van Wylen (sophomore; Hudsonville, Michigan). Lammers played 14 games at midfield for the Defenders and had one assist. Van Wylen scored five goals and had an assist while playing forward for Dordt College.

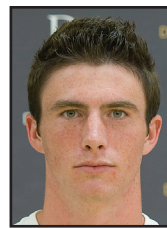
The Defenders finished the regular season with a five game winning streak and qualified for the eight-team GPAC post-season playoffs.

Women's Soccer

Noelle Kreykes, a senior from St. John, Indiana, headlined a group of five players earning all-GPAC honors for the 2010 soccer season. Kreykes scored a team-high 15 goals with three assists this season, helping Dordt to a 13-5-2 record. Kelly Smies (junior; Oostburg, Wisconsin) and Meghan Warners (sophomore; Hudsonville, Michigan) each claimed second-team honors. Smies, a midfielder, scored five goals and had two assists this season, and Warners had two assists while playing defense for Dordt. Katie Kortman (freshman; Grandville, Michigan) and Heidi Rozenboom (junior; Sioux Falls, South Dakota) were each

accorded all-GPAC honorable mention. Kortman played 1740 minutes in goal for the Defenders and allowed 15 goals with 100 saves. Her goals per-90 minutes played average was 0.78. Rozenboom scored two goals while playing mainly defense for Dordt College.

The Defenders were 6-3-2 this season in the GPAC and advanced to the post-season GPAC semifinals before being eliminated.



D. Williams



T. Stepanek



B. Verwolf



Van Den Bosch was a good role model

Ashlee Stallinga

After fourteen years as the head volleyball coach at Dordt, Tom Van Den Bosch recently finished his last season. He ends his career with a 464-112 record on the college level.

"I decided to retire based on a couple of things," Van Den Bosch said. "I just turned 62 and would enjoy doing some other things in the fall. Recruiting athletes on the college level is a year-round process that involves night time and weekend work. My grandchildren are just getting into school activities, and I do not plan to miss those."

He intends to watch his son as well, who coaches rival Northwestern's volleyball team—but now he will be watching from the stands, and not the opposing bench.

Van Den Bosch will also spend more time in the office, as the associate director of admissions. He serves transfers, returning students, adult learners, and high school seniors from nearby community high schools.

"There will be no extra time; it will just be different," he said.

It was extra time that got Van Den Bosch into volleyball in the first place.

After graduating from Dordt in 1970, Van Den Bosch was hired by Western Christian to teach history. When Western wanted to start a volleyball program in 1975, Van Den Bosch had a convenient opening in his schedule.

"I was not an athlete, but they happened to have the position open. I was young, so they gave it to me to do. And when you're young, you think you can do anything."

However, he found out that volleyball did not come naturally.

"After playing the game like backyard volleyball, I was told by the refs I better get some training."

So Van Den Bosch attended volleyball camps, to learn both how to play and how to coach.

Now, thirty-five years later, Van Den Bosch can claim success on many levels of play. He has coached a championship AAU team of fifth graders, four state champion teams at Western Christian, and eight National-qualifying teams at Dordt. He



At the end of the season, volleyball players from teams from many different years came to campus to honor Van Den Bosch upon his retirement.

has even coached a high schooler, Nancy (Meendering) Meltcalf who went on to be an Olympian.

"If you look at stats, his career has been pretty amazing," said Glenn Bouma, Dordt's athletic director. "Not only the years he's been involved, and how many wins he has, but his win percentage. In over eighty percent of the games he's been coaching, his team came out the winner."

But those numbers are not how Van Den Bosch measures his accomplishment.

"I just hope players enjoyed the game for what it is supposed to be—fun! I have been fortunate to have been part of a couple of state championships, national tournaments, and more wins than losses. Those are just the frosting on the cake that the media sees. Ninety percent of what coaching is all about is not seen in public."

Bouma agrees and does not hesitate to commend Van Den Bosch for much more than his number of wins.

"His numbers are impressive, but what's most impressive was how he treated his athletes," Bouma said. "He also had respect among his peers, because he did everything with a certain manner of class that was unique to Tom." Van Den Bosch lives what he believes.

Looking back on his thirty-five years of coaching, Van Den Bosch has more memorable moments than he can list.

One is his AAU Championship with a team of girls that called themselves the Ladybugs.

"I still have the ball they all signed. I think I got as much satisfaction from that win as from a National Championship. Coaching is coaching—the level doesn't

matter," he said.

His success on the college level has also left him with some wonderful memories.

"In 2005, we beat a team of Brazilians from National American College for a berth at the national tournament. We were down 2-0, and came back to win 3-2," Van Den Bosch said. "In 2003 we finished in the final four at the national level. That was another highlight that involves being pretty good, plus getting all the right breaks."

One person who has been with Van Den Bosch for so many of those memories is Traci Hiemstra. She played on his AAU team, the 2005 Dordt team, and is currently his assistant coach.

"Coach is a lot more than a great record, he is an amazing person. He is always looking at the big picture rather than the next match," said Hiemstra. "Coach is concerned with the well-being of his athletes and is thankful for the relationships that are formed each year. He is a leader and a role model for young women and has been given the gift of volleyball to fulfill that role while keeping Christ in the center of his life and never losing that focus."

Van Den Bosch plans to keep attending games, and he expects to see the team performing well.

"I wanted to leave the program when the team was doing well and with good recruits committed to keep the team playing at a competitive level," he said.

Watching from the sidelines will be much different.

"I will miss just about everything—recruiting, practices, social interaction with wonderful young women, preparing game plans for an opponent, competing against great coaches, gaining friendships with other coaches and officials," he said. The only things he won't miss are making tough decisions about playing time, uniforms, and where to eat on the road.

His team will certainly miss him.

"He had a good sense of humor and would joke around with us," said Jessica De Stigter, a junior volleyball player from Sioux Center. "He pushed us to become not only better athletes but also stronger in our faith lives. Dordt volleyball will not seem the same without him."

Please support our Vision 2020 Campaign

Vision 2020 was chosen as the name of our fund-raising campaign for several reasons. It's well known that 20/20 vision is considered perfect eyesight—definitely something to aim for. In addition, the year of our Lord 2020 is only a decade away, and this campaign is aimed at preparing the way for a number of important advancements in the life of the college during the next ten years.

But there's more, as you would expect at a college like Dordt, where teachers seek to open up both the potential and the truth of the gospel to our students. Some versions of Proverbs 29, verse 18, begin like this: "Without vision, the people perish..." The passage isn't talking about eyesight, or the importance of drafting a vision statement.

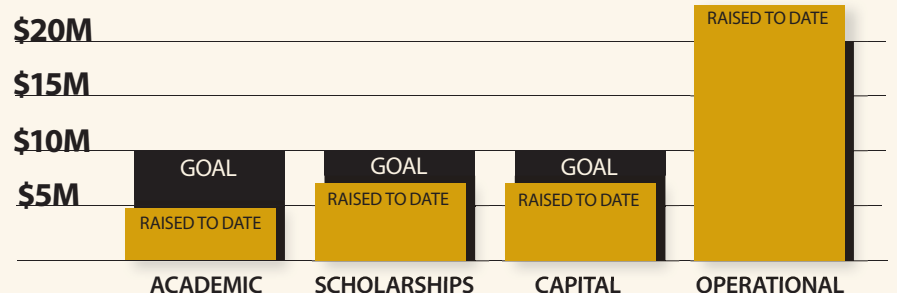


On the Web

Go to <http://bit.ly/vision2020> to contribute or find an upcoming campaign event in your area

It's talking about prophetic vision—vision anchored in the eternal perspective of Jesus Christ, our Lord and King. That's the vision that has taken us this far from 1955 to 2010. And it's the vision that will carry us to 2020 and beyond. It's that vision that we believe makes Dordt College worthy of your prayers and financial support.

BEYOND JUBILEE
VISION 2020
THE CAMPAIGN FOR DORDT COLLEGE



Giving thanks fits the season

Since I am writing this piece during the week after Thanksgiving, and since Christmas is not far off, I decided to jot down some of the things for which those of us in the Alumni Office are thankful.

A wonderful group of Alumni Council members. These members do an outstanding job of representing alumni all over the United States and Canada. They offer advice, read through student essays and distinguished alumni nominations, participate in committee work, and host Alumni Weekend as well as regional events in the areas in which they live. My job and the alumni office mission is made easier by them. You can see who these folks are by going to http://www.dordt.edu/alumni/alumni_council.shtml.



Wes Fopma

A wonderful body of alumni from around the world. I hear from alumni who share stories about the work they are doing in God's kingdom. Dordt College alumni are living out their faith in places like China, Saipan, Russia, Africa, Latin America, and all over the United States and Canada. If you have an interesting story to

share, it's okay to brag a little. We'd like to hear your story.

For alumni who reach out to fellow alumni when their former roommate or teammate is struggling with health issues. I've been made aware of this on several occasions. Recently I heard about a group of alumni from around the country who flew in to be with a sick friend for a weekend.

A caring body of fellow kingdom workers here at Dordt College. I truly enjoy working with the people here. There have been countless instances where faculty and staff at Dordt College have reached out to students and their families in times of need. I may be biased, but this is a good place for sons and daughters.

Alumni who send their sons and daughters to Dordt College to study. In this year's freshmen class of approximately 400 students, thirty-eight percent are children of alumni. That remarkable figure is the envy of many other colleges and universities.

Dordt's reputation in the broader world of higher education. This fall Dordt Col-

lege has received the highest rankings of any college in Iowa on several lists in the U.S. News and World Report's 2011 America's Best Colleges rankings. Dordt is ranked third on the 2011 list of Best Regional Colleges in the Midwest, marking the 19th year in a row and the seventh time the college has placed in the top ten.

That's a lot to be thankful for!

We are currently taking nominations for the Distinguished Alumni Award for 2011. The award recognizes alumni who have distinguished themselves in an extraordinary fashion, who give evidence of living out of a reformational world view, and who demonstrate exemplary service to the community and the world. Three awards are given annually to an alumnus from each of the college's three divisions: Humanities, Natural Sciences, and Social Sciences.

To view previous alumni who have received the award, see http://www.dordt.edu/alumni/da_recipients.shtml.

To make a nomination, go to http://www.dordt.edu/cgi-bin/alumni/distinguished_alumni/nominate.pl.

I hope you had a Merry Christmas and will have a healthy and happy New Year!

ALUMNI NOTES

Julius de Jager ('74) has recently accepted the position of Director of School Quality and Human Resources at the Ontario Alliance of Christian Schools in Ancaster, Ontario. His wife, **JoAnn (Van Dyk, '75)**, also recently changed jobs and is now an Infection Control Officer at St. Joseph's Hospital in Hamilton, Ontario.

Patrick ('94) and **Julie (Vanderploeg, '96) Krommendyk** of Belle Plaine, Minnesota, announce the birth of Micah Gerrit on August 22, 2010. He joins big sisters Allyson (12) and Brenna (9) and big brothers Bennett (6) and Tyler (3).

Tom and **Shelley (Westerhof, '95)** Toolis of Oak Forest, Illinois, announce the birth of Cordelia Teagan on October 21, 2010. She joins brothers Thomas (7) and Sean (5). Shelley is taking a short leave from her role as junior high abstinence educator for PASS, a crisis pregnancy center serving the south suburbs of Chicago.

Chad and **Heidi (Vos, '96)** Mosher of Wayland, Michigan, were blessed with the birth of Cassandra Noel on September 25, 2010. Cassandra joins Kendra (7), Evan (5), and Grant (3).

Brad and **Pamela (Schaap, '97)** Fedders of Ireton, Iowa, announce the birth of Kayla Ronae on October 27, 2010. She joins Paige (7), Olivia (6), Bryce (4), and Cora (16 mos.).

Julie and **Sean Voogt** ('97) of Abbotsford, British Colombia, announce the birth of Chayse Harper on August 19, 2010. She joins Remy (7) and Sienna (5).

Kurtis ('99) and **Lisa (Van Mersbergen, '99) De Bruin** of New Prague, Minnesota, announce the birth of Kate Joelle. She was welcomed home by Jaren (7), Bethany (5), and Erica (3).

Phil ('00) and **Lisa (Hamilton, '03) Heynen** of Visalia, California, welcomed Tony Neal on November 12, 2010.

Matt ('00) and **Kristi (Hoflund, '97) Fikkert** of Visalia, California, welcomed Silas John on July 22, 2010. He joins Noah (2).

Andrew and **Tricia (Rozenboom, '99)** Koster announce the birth of Jake Andrew on June 22, 2010. He joins Lily and Ashleigh. Andrew and Tricia operate a nursery business from their home south of Sydney, Australia.

Jesse ('00) and **Alyssa (Howerzyl, '99) Groen** were blessed with the birth of Jack Calvin on September 9, 2010. He joins Emma (7) and Olivia (5).

Ryan ('00) and **Tiffany (Pool, '06) Postma** announce the birth of Elliot James. He joins Ashlyn (6) and Elizabeth (3).

Dave ('01) and **Heather (Kuipers, '99) Vander Plaat** of Calgary, Alberta, welcomed twins Ellyana Joy and Liam Hendrik into their family on June 7, 2009. Heather and the babies required an extended stay in the hospital following the birth, but are now healthy, strong, and enjoying life as a family of four.



▲ **Arend and Sara (Bierma, '01)** VanderHelm introduce their new daughter, Anja Jeanette, who was born on October 27, 2010.

Tim and **Lani (Van Someren, '01)** Knutson of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, welcomed Michael Andrew on July 14, 2010. He joins Peter (3).

Richard and **Robin (Gindl, '01)** Flores were blessed with the birth of Aliyah Joy Flores on June 5, 2010. She was welcomed home by Isaac (4) and Gabriella (2).

Joel and **Brandie (Ochsner, '01)** Vande Werken of Sussex, New Jersey, announce the birth

of Katelyn Renee on September 3, 2010. She is greatly loved by big brother Willem (2).

Aron ('01) and **Sarah (Vriend, '01) Zuidhof** were blessed by the birth of Aidyn Joshua on October 4, 2010. Aidyn was welcomed by Jabin (6), Tianna (4) and Asher (2).

Holley and **Matthew Haan** ('02) of Wyoming, Michigan, announce the birth of Titus Calvin on October 10, 2010. He joins Benjamin (3). Matthew is currently in his second year at Calvin Theological Seminary.

Matthew ('02) and **Maria (Van Zee, '03) Wikkerink** announce the birth of Noah Matthew. He was born on June 26, 2010, in Abbotsford, British Colombia.

Christopher and **Lori (Philipsen, '03)** Fraker of Homer, Alaska, announce the birth of Katelyn Nicole on September 16, 2010. She joins her big brother Ethan (18 months).

Adam and **Jennifer (Jeltema, '03)** Larson welcomed Lucy Allianna on June 5, 2010. They are living in New Prague, Minnesota where they are both teaching in elementary schools.

Jeremy ('03) and **Kristi (Mulder, '03) Hummel** of Lethbridge, Alberta, announce the birth of Benjamin Asher on November 3, 2010. Benjamin joins big sister Morgan (3).

Colin ('03) and **Vicki (Bylsma, '03) Wielenga** of Dundas, Ontario, celebrated the birth of Madelyn Grace on August 16, 2010.

Brian and **Jill (Lefever, '04)** Van Bruggen welcomed Olivia Joy on August 5, 2010.

Kyle and **Ashley (Van Grouw, '04)** Wynia of Sioux Center, Iowa, welcomed Camryn Jean on May 7, 2010.

Aaron and **Cheryl (Deelstra, '04)** Thompson of Grand Rapids, Michigan, welcomed Phoebe Elizabeth on July 1, 2010.

Rob and **Leah (De Groot, '05)** Bruxvoort of New Sharon, Iowa, announce the birth of Lane Robert on July 7, 2010.

Named Scholarship Recipients

Continued from page 7

Oostra, Bierma, Van Engen P.L.C. Prelaw Scholarship
Steve Mangold

Pamela Adams Teacher Education Scholarship
Amanda Oliver

Pella Business Scholarship
Lee Radde

Pella Engineering Scholarship
Jesse Groenewold

Premier Communications Foundation Scholarship
Alex Davelaar
Zachary Davelaar
Gail Dirksen
Dorinda Hibma
Herman Hofman
Braden Kooiker
Brielle Moerman
Darren Raih
Morgan Rodenburgh
Maria Schuiteman
Michael Van Dixhoorn
Travis Vreugdenhil

Presidential Grant for Future Leaders
Jordan Fjellman
Sarah Kaemingk
Jorita Mulder
Derek Opp
Kristin Scholten
Benjamin Sytsma

Prins Insurance Inc. Men's Basketball Scholarship
Terrence Malone

R.J. Dykstra Business Administration Scholarship
Matthew Postmus

Ralph & Cornelia Gritters Business Scholarship
Crystal Vander Zee

Ralph Jennings Family Agriculture Scholarship
Derek Grace

Ralph Jennings Memorial Agricultural Scholarship
Geoffrey Stout

Randy Poel Memorial Scholarship
Kevin Haan

Richard & Hendrika Zwart Scholarship
Kassandra Heynen

Rick Vander Berg Men's Basketball Scholarship
Trevor Wolterstorff

Ringerwole Organ Scholarship
Jessica Wesselius

Ringerwole Piano Scholarship
Emalie Van Donselaar

continued on page 14

Learning as she teaches

Continued from page 13

Robert & Lois Vermeer Engineering Scholarship
Jordan Herrema

Ron & Jo Ritsema Elementary Education Scholarship
Michon Gritters

Rooster Booster Scholarship
Trent Geelyns
Michael Kooienga
Keith Roghair

Sid & Carol Verdoorn Foundation Teacher Education Scholarships
Kimberly Brinkerhoff
Elizabeth De Groot
Jessica Suk

Simon & Lena Prins Memorial Scholarship
Marissa De Boer
Kelsey De Kam

Sioux Center Municipal Utilities Scholarship
Daniel Wielenga

Smith Business Information Systems Scholarship
Lindsey De Stigter

Stan & Nancy Speer Music Education Scholarship
Sierra Tiegs

Steensma Engineering Scholarship
Benjamin Gesink

Steensma Music Scholarship
Mia Kornelis

Susan Breems Nursing Scholarship
Tiffany Schuller

Syne & Judy Altena Track and Field Scholarship
Jenna Brouwer
Kari Van Beek

Talsma Memorial Premedical Scholarship
Kiley Boone
Erica Lieuwen

Teachers for Underprivileged Children Scholarship
Allison Clark

Trans Ova Agriculture Scholarship
Zachary Van Ravenswaay

Van Gaalen International and Minority Student Scholarship
Daniel Gondere

Vander Ark Family Scholarship
Kassandra Heynen
Beth Tinklenberg

continued on page 15

Karen (Wiersma, ’77) Van Niejenhuis has spent the past thirty-four years married to Cec Van Niejenhuis (’76), parenting, studying, and moving back and forth across the country as a pastor’s wife. The Van Niejenhuises now live in Edmonton, Alberta, and have “three great adult kids, a wonderful daughter-in-law and son-in-law, and three precious grandchildren!”

Karen had always wanted to go into nursing, but thirty-seven years ago the choices were going to nursing school or going to a Christian college for a liberal arts education. Both were important to her and she chose to get her liberal arts education first. Having worked as a nurse’s aide since she was 16, she promised herself that she would go back to school for nursing after completing her B.A. in sociology and theology. She did so when their youngest daughter entered kindergarten, and she completed her R.N. three years later. After graduating in 1990, she worked in geriatric nursing and found it both interesting and satisfying. “It always seemed that I received more from the seniors than I actually gave them.”

The Voice asked Karen the following questions in an e-mail interview.

What do you do now?

In 2002 I joined the faculty of NorQuest College as a classroom and clinical instructor in the largest Practical Nurse and Health Care Aide programme in Canada.

For the past two years I have been primarily a distance instructor, teaching students on First Nations reserves across the province. This has enabled me to travel to First Nations communities and meet many wonderful caregivers. The First Nations people have so much to teach us about dignity and respect in the care of their elders and about the value of team work.

Two years ago I also became an instructor in the Hope Studies Certificate Program at NorQuest College

What is the Hope Studies Certificate Program?

It is a three-course, 45-hour program taught primarily in a classroom setting (the first course is available online). It combines personal reflection, practical strategies, and a review of research on hope. The programme is primarily offered to people working in health-related, caregiving professions.

To become a Hope Studies Instructor you must take the programme yourself. It was exciting (and scary!) to be part of a process that could make hope more intentional and visible in my life. The anxiety was gone almost instantly, as the excitement and encouragement of being with a hope-focused group took over! Although we represented a variety of care-giving professions, our personal stories of loss and challenge brought us together.

Students in the class represented a variety of faith and cultural backgrounds. Together, we worked at answering questions such as: What does hope look like to you? What does it feel like? How do you define it? What increases your hope? What challenges or wounds your hope? How can you use hopeful language to increase your hope and the hope of those you care for? How do you regularly practice hope? Can hope



Karen (Wiersma) Van Niejenhuis

live side by side with sadness and grief? The program concludes with a personal inquiry assignment to explore concretely how to make hope more visible in your own life.

What did you learn?

I discovered that free-form knitting and crocheting, as well as developing a collection of hope-filled quotations, helped me keep my personal hope alive. Lewis Smedes wrote a wonderful book titled, *Keeping Hope Alive*. In it he writes, “I do not hope because I am a Christian any more that a Jew hopes because she is a Jew. I hope because I am an anxious, struggling, suffering, longing, unfulfilled creature on the way to a future over which I have no control. My faith gives me God as my special reason to keep hoping when fear gets a grip on my soul.... All people hunger for hope because our Maker made us to live by hope. *God has given us the gift of hope to keep us going on our uncertain journey.*” I found his book offered and continues to offer much encouragement and insight for those who want to be intentional about hope in their personal and professional lives. I’ve come to think that hope is a common starting point that can bring us together for further discussion

What makes your work energizing and exciting?

The exciting part about working at NorQuest is its terrific cultural and ethnic diversity! Sixty percent of our students were born outside of Canada and represent about 125 different countries. Over twenty percent of our students are of Aboriginal ancestry. I am thoroughly energized by and thankful for being able to work with such a mix of mature students and to learn so much about their diverse cultural backgrounds and the often difficult life experiences that have already been part of their lives. I enjoy helping new immigrants navigate our Canadian customs and systems and find opportunities that best suit them. Many students are also recent immigrants from war-torn African or eastern European countries and have much to share with us about determination, loss, hopefulness, and thankfulness! It creates a tremendously rich learning environment as we learn to understand how to work with and appreciate a variety of strengths and experiences.

We are indeed a global village and my multicultural experience inspires me and allows me to be open both to seeing the weaknesses in my North American culture and to value its strengths. Our multicultural students do not understand why we place our seniors and disabled in homes or group living situations. They often find our culture indifferent to the needs of our seniors and think we focus too much on independence. Many wonder why single adult children would not want to live with the family and why we are often so intent on having them move out. They wonder why we are always eating on the run and not sitting down and sharing our meal with whoever comes along. My work continues to reinforce for me that we all have the same basic hopes and dreams for ourselves, our families and our communities. I often feel a deep sadness for what has occurred in our First Nations communities, much of it the far-reaching effects of sinful and racist colonization by our Christian ancestors. I believe that I must acknowledge that when I am with my students, but also clearly demonstrate that I am a Christian who wants to represent a new way of respecting their culture and heritage and live together as equals in every way.

How does your faith shape who you are and how you do your work?

My faith reminds me that how I treat my students on a daily basis must be a reflection of the fruits of the Spirit...patience, kindness, self-control, and so on. I hope that my students see that their needs, both academic and personal, are very important to me. Student success for adult learners is the key! I want them to know that flexibility is always possible when they experience illness or unexpected family demands.

How has your Dordt education shaped you?

At Dordt I learned the value of community and the bond that like-mindedness brings with it. I also appreciated the encouragement to keep on learning. I find that the more I learn, the less I really I know! I hope I can inspire my students to sense that as well. And of course, Dordt reinforced that all of life belongs to God. I hope that my excitement for learning and the sharing of new insights that students have taught me, allows students to feel the freedom to share their questions and insights as well.

What gets you up and ready to go every morning?

I continue to be excited about going to work every day because I learn so much from my students and gain a new appreciation for my own life. Sometimes I wonder whether and perhaps hope that learning in this multicultural milieu may be a small step toward a more peaceable world as we as Sudanese, Congolese, Eritrean, Ethiopian, Chilean, Nigerian, Sierra Leonean, Zimbabwean, Brazilian, Filipino, Taiwanese, Chinese, Afghan Peruvian, Iranian, First Nation, Métis, Pakistani, Nepalese, Tamil, and North American, sit together in one classroom and learn to work as a team to overcome language and cultural barriers to provide care to someone in need.

*Continued from page 14***Vander Haag Computer Science Scholarship**Mark Dadisman
Daniel Mahaffy
Rebekah Van Maanen**Vander Haag International Student Scholarship**Cesar Gomez Quintanilla
Anh Pham**Vermeer Agriculture Scholarship**

Dallas Van Gelder

Vermeer Computer Science Intern Scholarship

Nicholas Sohre

Vermeer Engineering Intern Scholarship

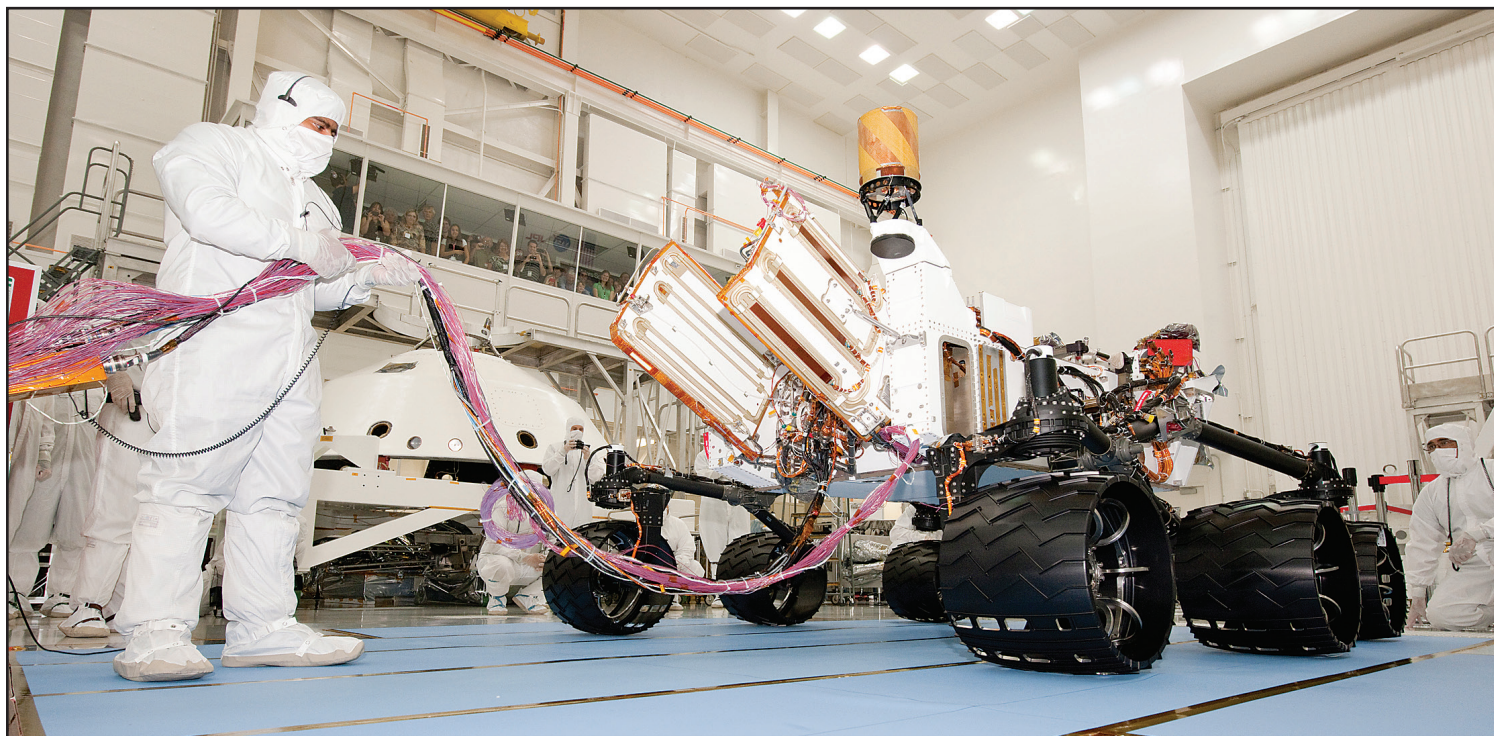
Martin Haverly

Vermeer Engineering ScholarshipNathan Friend
Mitchell Nettinga
Stephen Pederson**Viss Mathematics and Science Scholarship**

Carissa Drent

Vogel Paint Scholarship

Jordan Huisman



Dr. Paul Mahaffy's team of scientists planned and built the laboratory aboard the new Mars rover, Curiosity, which will be launched in the fall.

Earth to Mars: Paul Mahaffy gets ready for Mars mission

Sally Jongsma

Can things live on Mars? That's the question Dr. Paul Mahaffy ('72) and his team of thirty-seven scientists hope Curiosity will help them answer after it lands on Mars later this year. Curiosity is the new Mars Science Laboratory rover being built at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, California.

Mahaffy, a supervisory space scientist for NASA, is the principal investigator for SAM (Sample Analysis on Mars), a suite of laboratory instruments developed at Maryland's Goddard Space Flight Center over the past ten years and sent to JPL in December to be loaded on Curiosity.

As principal investigator, Mahaffy has led a team of nearly forty scientists who have done the scientific work necessary to develop SAM. He also leads a team of about the same size that has designed, fabricated, and tested the SAM instrument.

Most days during the development of the SAM suite, Mahaffy and thirty mechanical, thermal, software, and electrical engineers, technicians, and scientists met to plan their day and set priorities for their work. Some of the scientists spent time conducting geochemical field studies in Svalbard, in the



On the Web

For more information on the Curiosity Mars Project, see <http://bit.ly/marslab> and <http://bit.ly/samproject>

Arctic, where aspects of the environment resemble Mars. Others did hands-on work with the flight hardware in special clean rooms, donning the proverbial white suits to prevent contamination from being transferred from one planet to another.

"Working with a talented team of engineers and scientists on a daily basis is exciting," says Mahaffy, who spends a great deal of time in review meetings to make sure that the rigorous methodologies and processes necessary for developing flight hardware are accurately followed.

"We hope that the project will be a good step toward answering the question of past or present microbial life in the universe and specifically in Mars, our planetary backyard," Mahaffy says. He notes that other places where they might look for life in the solar system, such as in the ocean of Jupiter's icy moon Europa, are much more difficult to reach.

"Our approach with SAM on the Curiosity rover is to look for molecular signatures of life or, even more fundamentally, to understand if organic compounds can survive under the radiation and oxidizing conditions near the surface of Mars," says Mahaffy.

SAM, which will become an automated, mobile laboratory carried across Mars by Curiosity, includes a Quadrupole Mass Spectrometer (QMS), a Gas Chromatograph (GC), and a Tunable Laser Spectrometer (TLS). The three instruments measure atmospheric gas and gas extracted from solid samples collected by the rover.

After the rover, which is equipped with a variety of other instruments, captures a

sample, the SAM suite heats a powdered sample and analyzes the evolved gas to determine whether any organic compounds are present.

Recently scientists have found localized areas of methane in the atmosphere of Mars. Curiosity's new instruments should be able to more accurately determine if this methane is biotic or produced abiotically.

Regardless of whether SAM detects conditions for life, it will give scientists a wealth of new information about Mars. As the time gets closer for transporting the instrument to Mars and finding answers to questions about its chemical composition and its ability to support life, the excitement grows for Mahaffy and his co-workers.

SAM and Curiosity are scheduled to be sent to Mars with the Mars Science Laboratory in the fall of 2011. Until that time, according to Mahaffy, his team and others will continue with testing so they can all be confident that both SAM and Curiosity will work in the Mars environment and survive the launch and landing.

Mahaffy, who earned his Ph.D. in physical chemistry from Iowa State University in 1977, has worked for NASA for thirty years, serving in a variety of roles and on a variety of space exploration projects.

"I learned a lot about how to think about challenging problems from one of my professors at Dordt—the late Dr. Russell Maatman," he says, also crediting his research experiences at Iowa State for giving him the tools to work as a planetary scientist.

Mahaffy's team's work will continue throughout the two years (one Mars year) of the Curiosity mission following its launch next fall. Both the SAM and the Curiosity teams will look at data and plan operations as the rover moves around the surface of Mars.

You can watch Curiosity live as it goes through its final preparation for launch by going to the NASA/JPL/MSL website: <http://marsprogram.jpl.nasa.gov/msl/>

Paul Mahaffy

Paul Mahaffy is the Chief of the Atmospheric Experiments Laboratory in the Solar System Exploration Division at NASA Goddard.

He has participated for many years at Goddard Space Flight Center in study of planetary atmospheres and development of space qualified instrumentation.



Alumni Notes

John ('05) and **Larissa (Brown, '05) Vander Pol** welcomed Kinley Joy on August 31, 2010.

Nathan ('06) and **Lisa (Rouw, '07) Sakuma** welcomed Rylee Grace on July 15, 2010.

Wilbert ('06) and **Denise (VerBeek, '04) Talen** of Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, announce the birth of Joash Harrie on October 25, 2010.

Tricia Hessing ('07) recently accepted a position at Mercy Medical Center in Sioux City, Iowa, as Resource Team Registered Nurse.

Amanda (Pothoven, '08) Van Wyk has recently taken a job at Pella Regional Health Center. She received her Master of Science in Physician Assistant degree at Des Moines University.

Litasha Davis ('09) recently joined a non-profit organization called Redeem the Shadows, which raises awareness of human trafficking. For the next several months, she will be focusing on raising money to open the organization's first rehabilitation center in India for trafficked children. Read about the organization at www.redeemtheshadows.org.

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John Baas, vice president for college advancement

For more information about these events and for athletic schedules, please go to www.dordt.edu/events

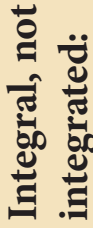
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NUMBER 2

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A look inside the curriculum



Mahaffy builds lab for Mars